

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

"May each of our churches be more aggressive and effective in evangelism to the end that more individuals may be won for Christ and His Church. May that be the emphasis of our churches for the year ahead." So did conclude the Superintendent's message at the Stockton Conference. Of course, this is the duty of the church every generation, year in and year out, yet periods of particular purpose when the call to plain duty is sounded again and again, stir us to obedience duty. The hour in California history is come when we must sound out a long recall to evangelism.

Each of our Conference churches is a field, a potential, an opportunity for growth around it. Those churches are growing where there is liberate and conscious effort to witness for the work of Christ's church. No single technique will be efficient. Every method of making our witness will be required. Of this I am certain: those churches will be successful where the laity are challenged to their responsibility and trained to become everyday lay witnesses for Christ and His Church.

Wesley Hotchkiss, Director of Research for the Board of Home Missions, after making a survey of the Quintvale district of Oakland, reported a large unchurched potential for congregationalism and how the church should approach its evangelistic opportunity. Every church could profit from this wisdom.

1. The Church must Extend Itself. To bring the Gospel to a pagan community, the church must take the initiative. It is not enough just to keep the doors open and try to attract the people with an interesting program.

2. The Laity must be Organized. The Church can only be brought to the unchurched community by a skillfully organized laity. The actual tension of the church cannot be borne by the professional clergy; only the laity can do this.

3. The Community must be Covered Spatially. The organization of the laity for the task of extending the church must be an areal organization in order that there be no missions or gaps.

4. The Approach must be Within Primary Groups. If crystallized patterns of non-church relatedness are to be broken, it must be done through the natural associations of small face-to-face groups already in existence.

5. The Religious Content of the church must be Relevant. The church which the unchurched are brought must speak in meaningful terms if these people are to be influenced and assimilated. The church must speak the peculiar needs of the kind of people they are.

6. The Organization must be Unobtrusive. Probably most important of all is the necessity of keeping the organization for church extension unobtrusive. The mechanics of lay organization must not be in evidence. The resources of the Conference, staff and its volunteer leaders, are available to any church which is serious about the task of reaching the unchurched with the redemptive flowship of the Church of Christ.

Wm David Pratt

ACCENT ON YOUTH

"Summer time, and the livin' is easy" . . . but not for the young people of our churches. In addition to the 14 summer camps at Cazadero, many of our youth will be involved in projects of Christian service throughout our State.

Eight young people will serve our churches through Student Summer Service. They will conduct vacation church schools, make community surveys, help with youth work and assist in Sunday morning services in more than twenty of our Conference churches. Student Summer Service teams are financed through Children's Day offerings. Be sure your church has a part in this home missionary venture.

Many of our PFers will again be taking part in the Christian Youth Fruit Camps, to be held this year at Hughson and Gridley. At the camps, they will salvage surplus peaches from the orchards, cut them for drying and prepare them for processing and shipment to areas of need abroad. Last year, five tons of peaches were salvaged from the camps. (Here, again, you may help, either by sending contributions for the overhead cost of the camps directly to the Rev. George W. Lindsay, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, or by helping to underwrite the expenses of a young person from your church.)

P.F. will also be part of the Ministry to Migrants this summer, with two young people serving on a team which carries the healing friendliness of Christ to the children of workers who follow the crops in our State. They will conduct vacation church schools, lead recreation, and visit in the homes of the migrant workers.

CAZ GROWS

Our Camp at Cazadero continues to grow with each passing month. Over the Memorial Day week-end, a chain-link fence was erected almost all the way around the new swimming pool. With the filling in of the final fifty feet there, the pool project may be counted as completed.

This summer, two new cabins will be built, under the direction of Myron Alexander. This will bring to eight the number of cabins available for campers, and will hasten the day when the dormitory can be remodeled to make an infirmary, quarters for the crew and offices for the camp.

By early fall, it is to be hoped that a start can be made on the new kitchen and lodge for the Camp. The Cazadero Commission has approved of plans for the new kitchen, which will occupy the site of the present office and stone storage houses.

Caz grows through the love, the devotion, the labor and the gifts of its many friends in our churches. We cherish your suggestions for its improvements, and your help in its growth.

THOSE FRONTIER CAMPS

A new development in camping at Cazadero is found in the "Frontier Camps," of which two are scheduled for this year. The first, June 20th to 27th, is for young people in the ninth grade; the second, August 22nd to 29th, is for other high school young people.

Both will be "camping camps" with the young people sleeping on the ground, doing their own cooking over open fires, carrying in their food from the main camp. In the simple, elemental tasks of daily living, close to the world which God has given us, there will be a rediscovery of what is important in human relationships. Formal program will be minimized, but the day-to-day search for the really vital centers of human faith will be uppermost.

In addition to the "Frontier Camps" there will be four area high school camps, a Student camp, two camps for Juniors (those who have graduated from the 4th grade but not from the 6th) and two camps for Junior Highs (those who have graduated from the 6th grade, but not from the 8th).

THE FIRST YEAR

It's almost a year since the Church Building Loan Fund came into being. The September 7 issue of our denominational magazine, "Advance," will be devoted to an illustrated report of the first year's progress of the campaign. As of June 4, the total amount pledged by all the churches amounted to \$3,046,807.27. This is an impressive figure, but still one and one-half million dollars away from the goal.

Dr. Albert D. Stauffacher, National Director of the Church Building Loan Fund Campaign, in speaking to a group of ministers and laymen in the San Mateo Church last week, made those who heard him more conscious than ever of what our building dollars will mean to the future of our Church. Dr. Stauffacher pointed out that when the goal of \$4,500,000 is reached, it will be added to the present loan fund of \$3,500,000 which is in use, and that this \$8,000,000 will make possible a million dollars every year throughout the future in loans for new churches, new parsonages, building sites and rehabilitation of present churches.

Three churches in our Conference were added to the Church Building Fund honor roll during May: Fresno, Zion; Port Chicago, and San Lorenzo Community Church. If our other churches act now, many promotional expense dollars will be saved. Think of the joy of finishing the job!

People and Places

Since sailing from New York in April, Dr. and Mrs. Vere Loper have visited Athens, Greece; Istanbul and Izmir in Turkey; Beirut in Lebanon; Damascus, Syria; and Jerusalem. Dr. Loper shared in the dedication of a new building at College Cevenol. Then a flight across the channel gave the Lopers an opportunity to observe the Coronation in London. From there they go to the meeting of the International Council of Congregational Churches at St. Andrews, Scotland.

Rev. Donald F. Gaylord represented our Conference as State Chairman at the National Committee on Our Christian World Mission at their annual meeting in Racine, Wisconsin, in May.

Dr. William McCormack left San Francisco on June 8 and will join Mrs. McCormack in Chicago from where they will fly to Glasgow on June 18. Their first stop will be St. Andrews, Scotland, where they are delegates to the International Council of Congregational Churches.

The cover picture of the May 11 issue of "Advance" was of the Rev. William Meyer, former Director of Christian Education in our Northern California Conference.

Rev. Robert B. Whitaker is retiring from the work at Sunol. Mr. Earl Lawrence, student at Pacific School of Religion, will take up the work November first.

Rev. W. M. Pratt, retired minister living at Mountain View, has closed a four months interim ministry at the Sacramento, Sierra Arden Church.

Rev. Richard R. Diede, pastor at New Pilgrim Church, Oakland, has resigned to accept the call to Armor, South Dakota. Mr. Diede has served New Pilgrim as a student at Pacific School of Religion. Stephen Jones will serve as the interim supply.

Manhattan, Kansas, has called the Rev. William F. Keeney of Auburn after a three year pastorate. Mr. Keeney was formerly pastor at Weaverville.

Reno, Nevada, has called the Rev. Felix Manley, associate pastor at the Claremont, California, Church. He will begin July first.

Rev. and Mrs. Benton S. Gaskell leave this month for St. Andrews, Scotland, for the meeting of the International Council of Congregational Churches. Afterward they will make a tour of several European countries.

Mrs. W. B. Buckham, as president of the National Women's Fellowship, will also attend the Council in St. Andrews.

DR. AND MRS. REIDENBACH HONORED

The reception honoring Dr. and Mrs. Reidenbach's twentieth anniversary at First Church, Oakland, was the big event of May for the church. Dr. Reidenbach's contributions to his community, in addition to his devoted service to his church, are outstanding. Many paid tribute to the place the Reidenbachs have made in the hearts of the First Church and the Conference as a whole. The high point of the evening came when Dr. and Mrs. Reidenbach were presented with a \$2500 check for their trip to Mexico which they expect to take shortly.

The Pacific

Established 1851

Entered as Second Class Matter at the
San Francisco Post Office

Subscriptions, 25 cents in advance

Published monthly (except July and August) by the Northern California Congregational Conference, 1164 Phelan Building, 760 Market Street, San Francisco 2, California.

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized September 11, 1937.

Address all communications and checks to THE PACIFIC, 1164 Phelan Building, San Francisco 2.

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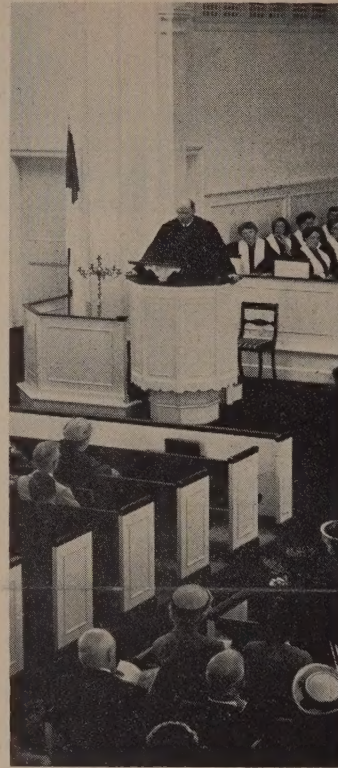


THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF STOCKTON, with its white spired, red brick, New England style building, was a beautiful setting for the 1953 Conference.

A STATE CONFERENCE is many things . . . it is the time when the thousands of church members in Northern California are given the opportunity, through their delegates, to approve the work that the Conference has done during the year . . . it is the time when ministers and laymen meet together to discuss various phases of the work the churches are doing; to help and inspire one another . . . it is a time when we are privileged to hear outstanding men and women . . . a time when we catch a glimpse of the scope and vision of the church at work around the world . . . it is an intangible spirit that emanates from the gathering together of many people dedicated to a high calling. For those who were not privileged to attend the State Conference this year, we record here a picture story of some of the highlights of this truly great experience.

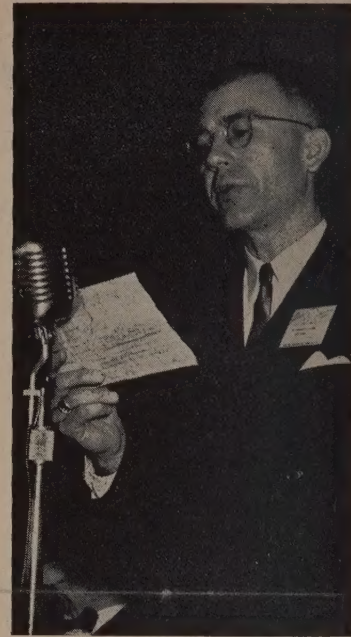


SEVERAL HUNDRED DELEGATES AND FRIENDS ATTENDED THE BANQUET ON SATURDAY EVENING AND TOOK PART IN THE PROGRAM OF MUSIC AND FELLOWSHIP.



Dr. Truman B. Douglass speaking at the Sunday morning service on the subject, "The Eternal Now."

As Executive Vice-President of The Board of Home Missions, Dr. Douglass is prominent in national, denominational and interdenominational circles and is active in all efforts to make our Church a leader in the solution of social, economic and racial problems.



LETTER from Dr. Gill being read by the Moderator, Herbert Hilker. "Aloha! i.e. greetings, love and good wishes! All of these and more too, come from our hearts. This will be the first annual meeting I have missed, beginning with 1918—35 years. It would give us more pleasure than we could describe to drop in on you and see all the dear friends and comrades of so many years, especially in the Stockton Church where I once labored and now being served by Noel Breed. . . . Honolulu and the Church of the Crossroads are very good for us, and to us. Never before have I had a church full Sunday after Sunday, and never before such a crowd of young people.

. . . No, we do not expect to remain here. If I were a few years younger I would love to help this church through a relocation and building program which seems to loom ahead, but that must be left for younger hands. Our health is good and we are enjoying our one day a week off in seeing these wonderful islands. It is our expectation to return to the mainland about November.

. . . We will be joining with you in your prayers for the wisdom and strength that comes from above, and the understanding and cooperation that comes from the churches.

And now having reported to you as a ministerial member of the Conference, as all absent ministers should do, I again bid you Aloha! This letter is from Claribelle too. She joins me in every word of it.

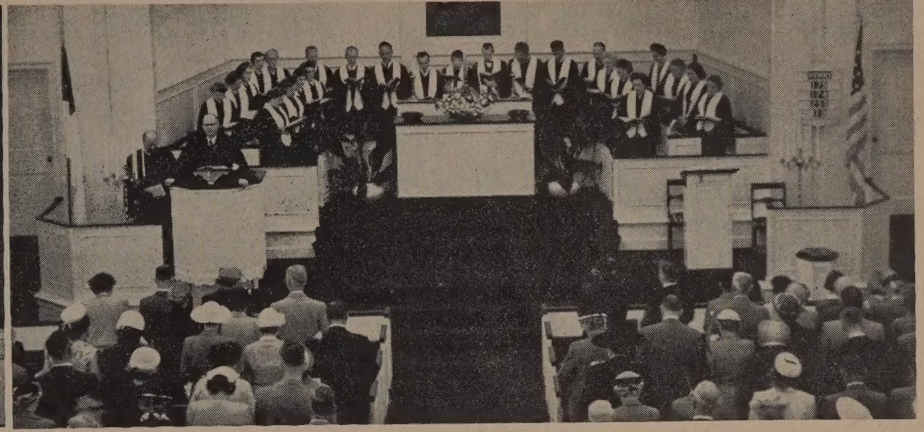
Yours in the comradeship of service,
HARLEY H. GILL."



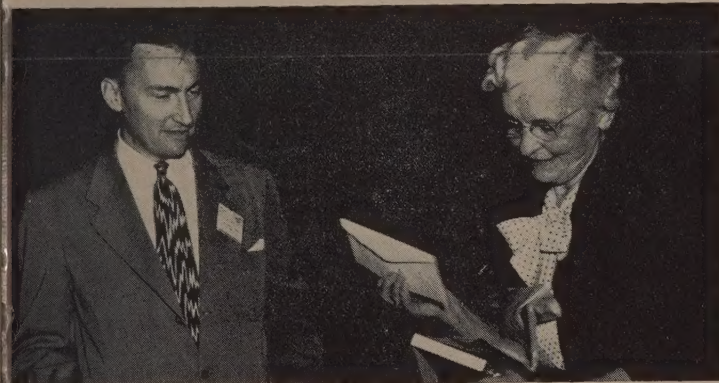
Seated at the speakers' table at the Conference Banquet are, left to right: Mrs. Gail Cleland, Dr. Gail Cleland, Mrs. Alice S. Riggs, Mrs. Stanley C. Knoles, Mr. Herbert Hilker, Mrs. Noel J. Breed, Mrs. Esther Ericson, Rev. Benton S. Gaskell, Dr. Noel J. Breed, Mrs. George Lindsay.



A HIGH MOMENT of the Conference was the installation service of our new Superintendent, Dr. William David Pratt. Dr. Noel J. Breed is seen greeting the new superintendent after the installation service.



THREE CHOIRS, filled with excellent voices, thrilled all who heard them with their inspired singing.



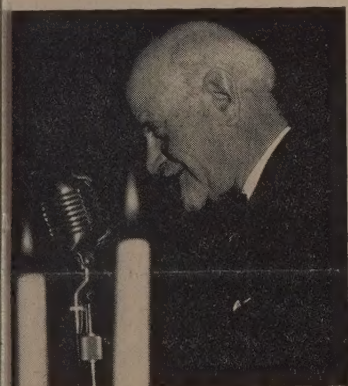
Mrs. Esther Ericson being presented a \$500 check by the Rev. Benton S. Gaskell, as a token of appreciation of her 23 years of service to the Conference. Mr. Gaskell is President of our Conference Board of Directors.



MRS. NOEL J. BREED is seen pinning a corsage on the shoulder of Mrs. William D. Pratt, wife of our Superintendent.

147 voting delegates and 71 pastors registered at the Conference in addition to a large number of visitors. The following new officers were elected: Moderator, Dr. Stuart LeRoy Anderson; Assistant Moderator, Mr. W. E. Watson, Jr.; newly elected members of the Conference Board of Directors: (Class of 1955) Rev. John F. Dunstan; (Class of 1956) Rev. Philip Reich, Mr. Carl B. Munck, Dr. Stuart LeRoy Anderson, Rev. H. A. Chakmakjian, Mrs. Charles E. Ward, Miss Amy Jensen, Mrs. Scott Haymond.

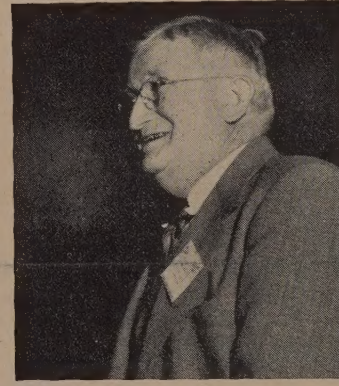
Officers of the Board of Directors elected are as follows: President, Rev. Benton S. Gaskell; Vice-President, Mrs. Scott Haymond; Secretary, Rev. William D. Pratt; Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Louise Dunn; Treasurer, Mr. David Blair; Assistant Treasurer, Mr. John H. Finger; Auditor, Mr. Paul K. Webster; Vice-President of the Corporation, Mr. Peirce Coombes.



CHANCELLOR TULLY C. KNOLES of the College of the Pacific received a great ovation after his address on the subject: "Tunc et Nunc."



SUPERINTENDENT JESSE F. PERRIN of the Congregational Conference of Southern California and the Southwest is shown bringing greetings.



GUY COLBURN of First Church, Fresno, making the annual sales talk for the "Pacific" and enlisting new subscriptions.



MRS. ALICE S. RIGGS, greeted by Mrs. Noel J. Breed, made a great impression on all who heard her talk on her work in the Near East.



Mr. Stanley North, Mrs. Jesse F. Perrin, Dr. Jesse F. Perrin, Mrs. William D. Pratt, Dr. William D. Pratt, Mrs. Tully C. Knoles, Chancellor George Lindsay, Rev. Earnest D. Lidell, David Parry, Richard Drury, Mrs. Richard Drury. Standing: Mr. John Green.

WOMEN'S FEDERATION NEWS

MRS. JOHN HARRISON, Correspondent

The next regular meeting of the Federation will be held Thursday, August 20, at the First Congregational Church, Oakland. No Evening Meeting this year. Asilomar delegates, remember date—July 31-August 4.

The ninety-seventh annual meeting of the Northern California Congregational Conference is over, a meeting of inspiration and rededication. Too bad everyone could not attend. The weather was cool and sunny with a few light showers. The music of the church choir, adult and junior, was very beautiful. The ladies of the host church added much to the enjoyment, with their coffee breaks and the chance to visit with friends old and new, in the comfortable lounge. It was pleasant to see the friendly cooperation at Stockton.

Mrs. Noel J. Breed presided. She presented Mrs. W. Bayard Buckham, our National Federation president; Mrs. Gail Cleland, Northern Federation president; Mrs. E. B. Kientz, past president; Mrs. Stuart Anderson, wife of the president of P.S.R.; Mrs. E. G. Gallagher, president of the Stockton Fellowship, and Mrs. W.T.M. Cook, fraternal delegate from Southern California and the Southwest. She reminded us that our federations are not confined to California, a fact that we often forget. She brought greetings and urged us to take I Corinthians 14:8 as a rule of living, to make sure that our words and actions are distinct and understood by all.

After lunch we went to the sanctuary where the vivacious Mrs. Riggs held us spellbound as she spoke from her heart of the beloved Anatolia College. After the meeting she graciously gave your reporter some data, not included in her address, with permission to use it in this report.

TREND IN GIVING

The quarterly apportionment receipts statement from Missions Council shows an encouraging trend in giving. The percentage of gain over the same period last year is 12.94%. How did our Conference fare? As the report below shows, many of our churches had a better record than last year, some a poorer one. There is a growing interest in Our Christian World Mission as our people become better informed. Now that we are running so well, we all hope that nothing may hinder us as we press toward the realization of our goals.

	Appt. Jan. 11 to May 31, '52	Appt. Jan. 11 to May 31, '53
Alameda	\$ 385.35	\$ 420.83
Altura	10.00	10.00
Angel's Camp	100.00	123.50
Antioch	576.94	622.54
Auburn	145.00	265.00
Benicia	113.00	165.40
Berkeley, Arlington	594.50	1,078.59
Chinese	42.00	39.50
First	6,771.67	6,642.44
North	435.33	963.65
Northbrae	400.00	
South	504.48	476.06
Biola	54.56	8.53
Campbell	598.50	411.07
Cedarville	81.10	33.83
Cloverdale	25.00	61.15
Concord, Hillcrest	144.68	337.00
Cotati	9.20	39.00
Crockett	105.87	66.60
Eagleville	17.61	62.35
El Cerrito, Mira Vista	8.40	
Elk Grove	72.30	266.05
Etna	157.52	177.39
Eureka	467.26	424.56
Fairfax	152.58	188.13
Ferndale	34.90	150.60
Fort Bidwell		33.75
Fowler		75.00
Fresno, First	1,610.46	2,350.00
Free Cross		131.10
Japanese	229.87	165.36
Zion		70.24
Glen Ellen		7.25
Guerneville	151.32	51.71
Hayward	1,350.00	1,761.25
Kenwood	5.35	15.35
La Selva Beach	31.87	24.27

\$40,461.18 \$44,314.88

NEWS of the CHURCHES

HAYWARD, EDEN—Preliminary drawings for the new building have been made and several prints distributed to various organizations for review. A final decision on the plans will be made by the Building Committee soon. About \$30,000 of the amount pledged in the recent fund-raising campaign has already been turned in.

SANTA ROSA, FIRST—Ground-breaking ceremonies on the new church location were held May 10. A local bank loan has been secured to help with the building, and great enthusiasm is being shown by the church members in this new undertaking.

BERKELEY, NORTH—Another milestone in the church's history! On May 15th, Bruce MacKenzie was ordained in the sanctuary. During his three years of seminary training he has directed the youth activities in North Church and all who have come under his influence have been privileged. Bruce has been called to work with the Rev. William Holaday at the Larger Parish, Murphys, California.

LODI, FIRST—Miss Margaret Neumann, an active member of this church, has been appointed by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions to work at the Dondi Mission in Angola, Portuguese West Africa. Miss Neumann will teach children of missionaries in the elementary grades.

PALO ALTO—The church has called Dr. Edna Acheson of Chicago to become Director of Christian Education and Student Work beginning September of this year. Dr. Acheson has had 25 years experience in four churches in the east and in Chicago. She comes with highest recommendations. The church is looking forward with high expectations to a rapidly expanding and far more effective children's and young people's work.

The church will vote on June 28 to let the contract for the first unit of its new plant. Construction should begin in July and the unit be ready for occupancy January 1, 1954. Four regular class rooms, a small assembly which can be divided by folding doors into two class rooms, and a small dining room which can be divided into two class rooms, a kitchen and an office will be constructed in this unit.

Construction of the sanctuary will be delayed until the present property is sold.

Lodi, Ebenezer	61.12	9.55
First	969.57	1,443.66
Lolita	12.43	15.61
Loomis	100.00	200.00
Los Gatos, Skyland	27.89	28.75
Martinez	443.36	1,580.88
Modesto	47.20	
Murphys	68.00	97.50
Niles	50.00	34.23
Oakland, First	2,800.00	2,755.00
Fruitvale	92.15	93.08
Japanese		60.00
New Pilgrim	193.70	192.54
Plymouth	1,066.70	794.22
Orinda	570.73	419.62
Oroville	747.05	410.00
Palo Alto	2,095.12	1,500.02
Paradise	330.00	450.00
Parlier	10.00	10.00
Pennigrove	9.75	68.24
Pescadero	5.00	7.77
Petaluma	489.75	332.96
Pittsburg	169.76	242.35
Port Chicago		26.55
Porterville	750.00	750.00
Redwood City	943.95	572.97
Rio Vista	12.00	550.00
Ripon	235.90	337.45
Sacramento, First	870.60	1,362.50
Oak Park	36.41	83.54
Sierra Arden	166.68	
Salida		51.97
San Carlos		985.00
San Francisco	880.00	
Beth. Miss. Pk.	38.00	60.00
Calvary Armen.		50.00
First	1,104.72	1,147.44
Park Presidio	602.47	443.81
Pilgrim	102.82	97.05
St. John's	71.01	102.42
Sanger	28.96	
San Jose, First	855.00	916.65
San Leandro	30.45	54.06
San Lorenzo	150.00	120.00
San Mateo	2,100.00	1,950.00
San Rafael	149.25	200.06
Santa Cruz	647.20	660.30
Santa Rosa	163.91	99.60
Saratoga	363.98	449.08
Sebastopol	437.31	345.96
Sonoma	50.00	95.00
Soquel	160.35	141.71
Stockton	806.40	957.42
Scuisun	173.70	145.06
Sunnyvale	112.25	97.45
Sunol	144.20	97.96
Tulare	740.00	632.00
Weaverville	135.63	106.95
Woodside	81.96	172.80
Reno, Nevada	402.12	331.65
Pilgrim Fellowship	923.17	1,399.88
Miscellaneous	194.88	154.66

MODESTO, COLLEGE AVENUE

—The long-awaited moment, the start of the new church building, has come. Dr. Truman Douglass, Executive Vice-President of the Board of Home Missions, was guest at the church's Construction Day ceremonies held on Saturday afternoon, May 23. There was great rejoicing when a local bank, through a loan, made possible the additional funds needed. The Trustees gave much thought to the additional financing and have worked out a feasible plan to back up the loan requests.

SAN MATEO—With a total of \$55,000 secured to date, it is apparent that the church's basic expansion plan can be carried out. Some hoped-for improvements must be deferred pending a larger pledge total. With Herbert Hiker as Conference Moderator, the Rev. Benton Gaskell as Chairman of the Board of Directors, the Rev. Terence Stoker as Chairman of the Student Work Committee, and Mrs. Marjorie Recknagel leading a Seminar on Children's Work, San Mateo Church had a large part in the State Conference leadership.

PETALUMA, FIRST—Already plans are under way for the church's centennial celebration next January and the Centennial Observance Committee has set the date for January 24 to January 26, 1954. An excellent program is being planned, with an outstanding leader of Congregationalism scheduled for the Sunday morning service, January 24.

SAN JOSE, CHURCH OF THE VALLEY—Response from members and friends of the church to the building fund drive has been immediate and impressive. Total pledges received to date are \$15,295.00, with thirty calls yet to be made. The greatest thrill of the campaign was the report that there were about 126 who are prospects for church membership, 75 prospects for the church school, and 140 pledges toward the first building fund campaign.

REDWOOD CITY—A letter has just been received from the Rev. David Held, new minister of Redwood City, stating that he and his family left Oak Lawn, Illinois, on June 1st. They plan to vacation in Ohio and arrive in California a day or two before July 1st. A committee is hard at work on arrangements for the purchase of a new manse. On May 10th the Building Committee held a meeting with the architect for the new church. A request to the Board of Home Missions for a loan towards the construction of the church building will be considered at the Board's June meeting.

Chapel of the Chimes

AT OAKLAND and SANTA ROSA
ABOVE GROUND BURIAL... Under Endowed Care

The Oakland Chapel is the largest and most beautiful in the United States... with three Chapels, seven lovely gardens, Great Organ and Chimes.

The Santa Rosa Chapel is set in its own charming gardens and is equipped for Cremation Service or Mausoleum Crypts for entire casket.



Oakland



Santa Rosa

Visitors are always welcome at either establishment.

OAKLAND—4499 Piedmont Avenue
SANTA ROSA—One mile south on 101